



Honors American Literature Applicant:

Lincoln High School

Honors American Literature – Summer Reading Assignments 2017

Dear Students and Parents:

I'm excited about your interest in Lincoln High School's Honors English Program for Junior Year – Honors American Literature (affectionately dubbed HAL). Our program's goal is to make students college ready and to prepare students for the Advanced Placement English courses by exposing them to a variety of reading selections while developing the skills to evaluate and develop arguments and to analyze cultural and historical influences on significant literature.

Enrollment in this class is highly competitive!! While you have received this letter because you applied for the class, you are not yet accepted into the class. There are only 36 spots and we have more applicants than seats in the class. As a result, final acceptance **must be earned**. Summer reading is a required part of this program and will be one measure used to determine final acceptance into the class. Below are two summer readings. You may purchase your own texts or see me before May 26, 2016 if you would like to get them from me.

- The Crucible Arthur Miller
- East of Eden John Steinbeck

Be prepared to complete in class assignments on the two texts on our first day of class and throughout the course. To aid your success, I recommend you annotate the text as you read. The goal is to develop your own thoughts and analysis. Highlight interesting, important, or confusing passages. List questions. Determine themes. Note figurative language. Look for patterns (words, details, images, symbols). A hint: use brackets, checks, stars, bullets, or asterisks to mark very important items or detail you want to return to later. In the front of the book record the symbol you used and write the page numbers that have that symbol. Another hint: if the book is not yours or you do not plan to write in it, strategically annotate on post-it notes.

Final acceptance into the Lincoln High School Honors English program *is* contingent upon completion of the summer reading assignment. You will be evaluated on your ability to personally engage with the text and successfully analyze it. Failure to complete the summer reading assignment *will* have a negative effect on overall grade.

I'm excited about next year's class and look forward to meeting you in August!

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